

qrulepubliccomments

From: Hämäläinen Olavi [Olavi.Hamalainen@finnair.com]
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2006 9:11 AM
To: qrulepubliccomments
Cc: Bjurström Hannes; Leppälä Mauri
Subject: Control of Communicable Diseases, Notice of Proposed Rule Making, 30th November 2005

Attn: Q Rule Comments,
1600 Clifton Road, NE, (E03)
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Recipient at CDC,

As a comment to your proposed rule paper concerning control of communicable diseases we wish to express our concern about some items:

1. The suggested symptoms indicating a possible communicable disease on board an aircraft cover also the common cold and thus are not relevant criteria for suspecting a communicable disease. Cabin crew members of any airline have only a limited education to meet medical conditions, which makes the use of the suggested symptoms unserviceable in normal circumstances. If the proposed rule would come true, it would make airlines to seek alternative solutions, such as telemedicine or services like MedLink or like. This would mean additional costs for airlines and to the passengers.
2. There might be legal problems in delivering passenger data, especially in medical cases confidential medical data to CDC, depending of course on CDC's status as an administrator of law. Anyway delivering any health documentation to any Public Instance must be based on a section of the relevant law.
3. Currently the US officials already gather passenger data from passengers travelling to US. In order to avoid extra work, making good use of the already existing data might be beneficial for all parties. In cases of severe illnesses on board - including suspected communicable diseases - airlines should already have existing procedures.

Best regards,

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